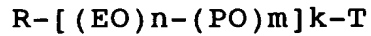


ABSTRACT

An ink is provided which can realize good images on various recording media, especially plain papers.

- 5 The ink comprises at least a water-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, and a mixture of two or more compounds represented by formula (I):



wherein

- 10 EO represents an ethyleneoxy group;
 PO represents a propyleneoxy group;
 T represents an OH group or SO_3M wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an inorganic base, or an organic amine;
- 15 m and n are each an integer;
 k is a natural number of not less than 1; and
 R represents an alkyl or cyclic group.

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